

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for operating a video processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving by said video processing apparatus an electronic mail message remotely from a user, said electronic mail message comprising a plurality of fields including a subject field having an operating command and another field having control information relating to time and channel data of a selected event;

processing said electronic mail message in said video processing apparatus to determine said time and channel of the selected event; ~~and~~

forwarding by said video processing apparatus another electronic mail message to the user if there is a conflict between said time and channel data and a preexisting timer event; and

operating said video processing apparatus in response to said operating command and said control information if there is no conflict between said time and channel data and any preexisting timer event.

2. (previously presented) A method for operating a video processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message directly from a user in email format including sender, subject and control information, wherein the subject comprises an operating command for operating said video processing apparatus;

processing, in said video processing apparatus, said message to determine said control information; and

operating said video processing apparatus in response to said operating command and said control information.

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein said control information is disposed in a message portion of an email and comprises at least a password, channel data and time data.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3 further comprising the step of evaluating said password for user verification and wherein said step of operating comprises turning on said video processing apparatus at the desired time and selecting a program in response to said time and channel data.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein said operating command is a recording command and said step of operating comprises controlling a video recording device, interconnected thereto, to record a program associated with said time and channel data.

6. (original) The method of Claim 5 wherein said step of controlling comprises programming an event timer, associated with said video recording device, using said time and channel data.

7. (original) The method of Claim 2 wherein said control information comprises program data.

8. (original) The method of Claim 7 further comprising passing said program data to the electronic program guide to determine the time and channel information associated with said program data, said program data corresponding to a program listed in said electronic program guide.

9. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said received electronic mail message includes a password for user verification by the video processing apparatus.